

ANNUAL REPORT

. . OF THE . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . TO THE . .

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, FOR THE YEAR, 1904.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasing duty of laying before you my Annual Report concerning the present state and general health conditions of the District.

These may be considered to be very even throughout the year, seeing that the number of deaths was exactly the same namely 51, in three, out of the four quarters of the year examined in my quarterly reports; the third quarter falling a little below the others with a mortality of 45.

As may be seen by the Tables the mortality in the adolescent and vigorous years of life is small, its incidence being upon the very opening period of existence, and upon the later period of natural decay of the vital powers, above the three score years and ten. It ought to be noted as a feature of the healthy nature of the District, the large number of persons who have died at a very advanced age during the year—namely, one at 100 one at 97, one at 93, and two at 92. One at 87, three at 85, four at 84, four at 83, two at 82, two at 81, two at 80, and thirty-one between 70 and 80.

A very important element in the matters that have affected the health of the District during the past year, is the continued encroachment of what are termed Zymotic or Infectious Diseases. These diseases are not endemic nor attributable to any naturally unhealthy conditions peculiar to the locality, but are continually being introduced on all sides, seizing the very young, and those unprotected by previous intrusions, and tending to linger in the District while material is left for them to feed on. Thus, though the number of deaths directly attributed to these, may not be large, their influence on the general mortality is very considerable.

Whooping Cough has taken a large toll of infant life, and with Measles has materially affected the death rate of the past year.

Seven Schools have had to be closed during the year, four owing to outbreaks of Measles and three owing to the prevalence of Whooping Cough.

The Schools closed generally for four weeks at a time, were, All Saints in Thirsk, Catton School closed twice, Sandhutton, Thirsk Infants, Pickhill, and Birdforth.

Scarlatina has appeared in one or two districts, but has not spread. Diphtheria.—A fatal case occurred in Carlton Miniott in a child that had just been brought into the district. The only suspicious thing about the premises was a soft-water tank which was said to be bad smelling when pumped from.

A fatal case occurred at Foxhall an isolated cottage on the very limit of the District. And three other cases in the same family were reported later. Inspection of the premises showed a clean and tidy condition of the house and its surroundings. The premises were disinfected carefully.

The Nuisance Inspector has been engaged during the year in laying or relaying drains in Knayton, Bagby, Langthorpe, Sutton, Topcliffe, and Thirsk.

In Thirsk 84 feet of concrete tunnel being laid near the Infant School; having a constant flow of water of six inches in depth.

In the vicinity of Sandhutton 400 yards of Sanitary pipes have been laid to take the Sewerage from the road-side, and a settling tank built.

In regard to the Scavenging of Thirsk and Sowerby the Inspector reports that the Ash-pits are now regularly cleaned out once in three months, tenemented property and schools being attended to once a month.

All cases of infectious diseases are supplied with disinfectants. The Vaccination Officer reports a satisfactory state of Vaccination in the District. Of 306 births in the Union, 202 have been successfully vaccinated, 26 have died before vaccination, 7 certificates of exemption have been granted, 4 cases postponed through illness, 1 removed out of the Union, and 66 under 4 months, or under investigation.

In June a request was made by the Topcliffe Parish Council, that the proposed site of a Cemetery for Topcliffe should be inspected and reported on.

The site was visited and carefully inspected. It was pronounced to be well chosen in many respects, adjoining the road, it is easily accessible. It is convenient to the town without being actually in it. Its elevation seems to be somewhat above the level of the old churchyard, but as no ill results seemed to have occurred from the long use of that place in the midst of the town, I cannot see that any bad influence is likely to arise from the removal of the burying place to the outskirts, especially as it is unlikely that the town will grow out to its vicinity.

The proposed deep drainage of the field, if carried out, will obviate any damage to existing wells, none being so far as I could see, in any near proximity to the site.

The open trial excavation showed a strong, firm and dry sandy formation.

On the whole, the site compares very favourably with the sites of many of the existing burial places in the surrounding districts.

An interesting adjunct to the Sanitary improvements of the neighbourhood ought not to be omitted to be noticed, namely the great extension of Asphalted footpaths in Thirsk and Sowerby, and gravelled and curbed footpaths on the waysides in other parts of the District.

The Asphalted paths in the town must be a distinct boon to the delicate and weakly, as they may enable them to get out-of-door exercise safely, to a much greater extent than was formerly possible when damp weather was succeeded by mud and slush on the roads and paths, where now the quickly drying asphalt allows of an early out door walk after rain. Nor ought the great advantage in the same direction of improved stiles to some of the footpaths in the vicinity of Thirsk and other places remain unmentioned.

56 Inspections were made of different parts of the District during the year.

All workshops, work places, and factories are complying with the requirements of the New Factory act in a satisfactory way.

Signed,

JOHN H. BUCHANAN,

Thirsk, 6th February, 1905.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non- residents registr- ed in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age		At all ages.					No.	Rate*
		No.	Rate*	No.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	No.	Rate*						No.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	12188	314	25·76	33	105·09	186	15·26	..	..	..	186	15·26
1895	13016	352	27·04	42	119·31	190	14·59	..	..	..	190	14·59
1896	13016	317	24·35	28	88·32	167	12·83	..	..	..	167	12·83
1897	13016	321	24·66	29	90·34	185	14·21	..	..	..	185	14·21
1898	13016	309	23·74	44	142·39	204	15·67	14	..	..	204	15·67
1899	13016	327	25·12	36	110·09	207	15·90	9	..	..	207	15·90
1900	13016	335	25·73	38	113·43	204	15·67	7	..	..	204	15·67
1901	12710	293	23·05	33	112·62	182	14·31	7	..	..	182	14·31
1902	12852	298	23·18	38	127·51	150	11·67	11	..	..	150	11·67
1903	13015	328	25·20	27	82·31	166	12·75	5	..	2	166	12·75
Averages for years 1894 1903	12886	319·4	24·78	34·8	109·14	184·1	14·28	8·83	..	·2	184·1	14·28
1904	13061	301	23·04	49	162·79	198	15·15	12			198	15·15

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 64,024

Total population at all ages, 12,710
Number of inhabited houses, 2855
Average number of persons per house, 4·45

At Census of 1901.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—Yes.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District—Lambert Memorial Hospital.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Names of Localities.	1. THIRSK.				2. TOPCLIFFE.				3. SUTTON.				4. KNAYTON.				5. PICKHILL.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1894	6584	161	109	17	1590	53	23	6	1156	28	17	3	1622	39	26	5	1236	33	11	2
1895	6584	180	113	29	1590	70	20	5	1156	19	18	1	1622	50	21	4	1236	33	18	3
1896	6584	157	104	18	1590	69	22	3	1156	28	16	3	1622	33	17	4	1236	30	8	0
1897	6584	192	104	19	1590	56	26	2	1156	19	13	1	1622	32	15	2	1236	22	27	5
1898	6935	170	121	29	2140	82	43	12	1156	16	16	1	1957	41	24	2				
1899	6935	185	133	25	2140	75	43	7	1156	31	10	1	1957	36	21	3				
1900	6935	199	100	21	2140	76	49	8	1156	18	30	3	1957	42	24	6				
1901	7055	162	105	22	2798	57	37	4	1029	27	17	3	1828	47	23	4				
1902	7145	175	97	29	2835	77	26	6	1027	14	10	0	1851	35	17	3				
1903	7229	198	92	15	2876	74	41	7	1051	18	15	2	1865	38	18	3				
Average of Years 1894-1903.	6857	177.9	107.8	22.4	2128	68.9	33.0	6.0	1119	21.8	16.2	1.8	1790	39.3	20.6	3.6				
1904	7236	163	126	36	2930	83	29	7	1051	21	14	2	1877	34	21	4				

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each Locality.			
	At all ages	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds				
Diphtheria ..	5	..	3	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	8	..	2	..	2	2	2	6	1	..	1
Scarlet Fever ..	29	..	6	12	6	5	..	15	6	..	8
Enteric Fever ..	4	..	..	2	..	1	1	4	..	..	..
Measles ..	169	5	67	84	9	4	..	132	32	4	1
Whooping Cough	187	30	86	66	2	1	2	123	45	6	13
Totals ..	402	35	164	165	19	14	5	285	84	10	23

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1904.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of Death. 1.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Total Deaths whether of Residents or non Residents in Public Institutions in the District. 13
	All ages. 2.	Under 1 year. 3.	1 and under 5. 4.	5 and under 15. 5.	15 and under 25. 6.	25 and under 65. 7.	65 and up-wards. 8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	
Measles ..	2		1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Whooping cough	12	8	4	..	..	..	..	7	2	..	3	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	1	..
Diarrhœa ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Phthisis ..	9	..	..	1	3	5	..	7	..	..	2	..
Other tubercular diseases	4	1	..	1	2	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	14	..	..	..	..	8	6	13	1	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..	17	5	2	..	1	1	8	12	4	..	1	..
Pneumonia ..	5	2	..	..	1	1	1	3	1	..	1	..
Pleurisy ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs. ..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Alcoholism	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	2	1	..	..
Cirrhosis of liver												
Premature birth	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	1	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..
Heart diseases	21	..	1	1	..	5	14	12	4	3	2	..
Accidents ..	8	1	1	..	2	2	2	5	1	..	2	..
Suicides ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
All other causes	75	18	2	3	1	11	40	50	10	7	8	..
All causes ..	198	46	14	7	11	42	78	134	29	13	22	..

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	9		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	9	None.	None.
Total	18		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Act: and Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act: None.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H. M. Inspectors of Factories :—None.
Homework :—Lists of Outworkers :—Lists received—None.
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—None.
Total number of workshops on Register—62.